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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1964.

A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M.& H.,
Barrister at Law.
Medical Officer of Health.

J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1964.

Once again the vital statistics are satisfactory. It must be remembered that the total numbers are small and a death or birth either way would change the percentage considerably. However, the fact that they continue to be satisfactory from year to year does give them greater weight.

I am grateful to you, Mr.Chairman and members of the Highways and Public Health Committee for the interest and co-operation you have shown during the year and I am most grateful to Mr.Mears, who is responsible for most of this Report.

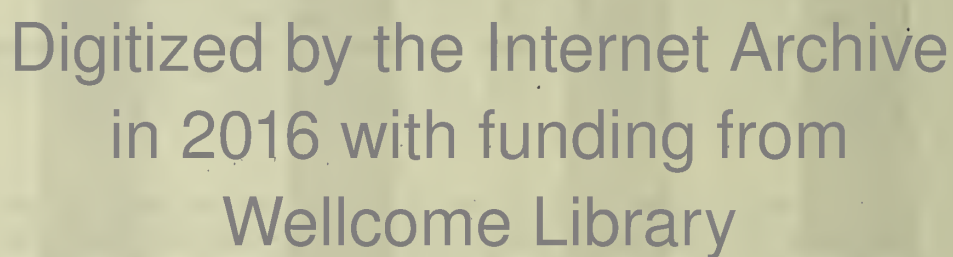
I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.R.DARLOW

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1965.



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AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1964

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
D.C.H., D.T.M.& H.
Barrister at Law.

Surveyor, Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager -
J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area	Acres 1,904
Population -	
Census for 1961	3,854
Registrar General's estimate of home population, mid year 1964 ..	4,270
Number of inhabited houses	1,464
Rateable Value	£143,688
Sum represented by Penny Rate (to 31.3.65)	£600

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Amphill continues to change its nature from a small market town, and, in keeping with modern times, tends towards industrialization. There are several established light industries which are steadily increasing their output and buildings.

The town also serves as a dormitory for many workers who travel daily to Bedford, Luton and other large towns.

The town is fortunate in having so valuable an amenity as Amphill Park. Here, and elsewhere, there are facilities for cricket, tennis, hockey, putting, football and fishing. There are several recreational societies in the town.

Heavy and consistent traffic through the town on the way to the M.1 is a burden and provision of a by-pass is eagerly awaited.

Sixty-three private houses were completed and occupied, the bulk of these being on the Holland Road, Oliver Street and Amphill House Estates. Work also commenced on the new estates at Warren Farm, Alameda Road and off Church Street.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	36	55	91
Illegitimate	3	-	3
Total	<u>39</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>94</u>
Crude Birth Rate	22.0 per 1000 home population.		
Adjusted Birth Rate	21.4	"	"
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.97)			
As compared with -			
Average for last five years	18.4 per 1000 home population.		
Rate for Bedfordshire	21.9	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	18.4	"	"

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Still birth rate 10.5 per 1000 live and still births

As compared with -

Average of last five years	16.5 per 1000 live and still		
Rate for Bedfordshire	13.2	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	16.3	"	"

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	18	19	37
Transferred into District	7	12	19
Transferred from District	-	-	-
Total	<u>25</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>56</u>
Crude Death Rate	13.1 per 1000 home population.		
Adjusted Death Rate	7.6	"	"
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.58)			
As compared with -			
Average of last five years	12.6 per 1000 home population.		
Rate for Bedfordshire	9.4	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	11.3	"	"

<u>Deaths of Infants under One year of age.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Infant Mortality Rate 10.6 per 1000 related live births

As compared with -

Average of last five years	11.2 per 1000 related live		
Rate for Bedfordshire	14.9	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	20.0	"	"

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality NIL per 1000 live and still births

As compared with -

Average of last five years	2.7 per 1000 total (live and		
Rate for Bedfordshire	0.69	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	0.25	"	"

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964.

Cause of Death.	Total.		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year.		AGE IN YEARS												75 and over					
	All Ages		4 weeks		1 year.		1		5		15		25		35		45		55		65		75 and over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
9 Other infective & parasitic diseases.	-	1																	1					
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	1																		1				
11 " " lung, bronchus.	1	-																						
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	2	3																					1	3
16 Diabetes.	-	1																						1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	10																						
18 Coronary disease, angina.	8	4																					1	3
19 Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1																					1	4
20 Other heart disease.	5	6																						1
21 Other circulatory disease.	1	-																						5
23 Pneumonia.	-	1																						1
24 Bronchitis.	1	-																						
31 Congenital malformations.	1	-	1																					
32 Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	2	2																						
33 Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-																						
34 All other accidents.	-	1																						
Total all causes.	25	31	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	4	3		15	24

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS
Congenital malformations.

Male. Female.
1 -

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board -

General Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Infectious Disease Hospitals

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittelsea, Near Luton.

Chest Clinics (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Venereal Disease Clinics

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing,
Tuesday - 4.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. (Men and Women)

Friday - 2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. (Men and Women)

St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Monday to Friday - 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service -

Bacteriological Laboratory

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Public Health Laboratory, Lewsey Road, Luton.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council -

(a) Ambulance Service.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be made to the nearest depot.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows -

Amphill - 14 Dunstable Street.	Telephone Amphill 3333
Bedford - Bedford Road, Kempston.	Bedford 59335
Biggleswade - Chestnut Avenue.	Biggleswade 2295
Dunstable - High Street North.	Dunstable 62761
Luton - Leicester Road.	Luton 52600 & 51871
Linslade, Bucks County Council, 10 New Road, Leighton Buzzard.	Leighton Buzzard 3332

- (b) Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service.
Administered by the North East Divisional Health Committee -
The Nurses employed are -
Mrs.P.R.Aspinal, 46 Holland Road, Ampthill.)
Telephone - Ampthill 2045.)
Mrs.P.D.A.Cook, 34 Greenways, Flitwick.)
General Nursing only. Telephone - Flitwick 684.)
Mr.K.F.Cripps, 189 Oliver Street, Ampthill.)
Telephone - Ampthill 3248.)
Mrs.L.E.Stockbridge, 11 Arthur Street, Ampthill.)
Telephone - Ampthill 2261.)
- (c) Health Visiting Service
Miss E.V.Maberly, 24 Lyme Road, Ampthill.
- (d) Home Help Service
Organiser - Mrs.V.M.Berckelaer, Health Centre,
Union Street, Bedford. Telephone - Bedford 2207.
- (e) Child Welfare Centre
1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Friday afternoons.
- (f) Immunisation Session
1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Friday a.m. four weekly.

6. SCHOOLS

There are two Schools in the District - Redborne County Secondary School, Flitwick Road and The Russell School (Queen's Road and Flitwick Road).

7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply

Responsibility for the water supply of the District has now been transferred to the Mid-Beds.Water Board.

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER

Parts per million:

Colour	NIL - filtered	Turbidity	7
pH	7.8	Odour	NIL
Electric Conductivity	500	Free Carbon Dioxide	5
Chlorine present as Chloride	28	Dissolved solids dried at 180°C.	360
Hardness: Total 260: Carbonate	145	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	145
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.00	Non Carbonate	115
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Albuminoid "	0.0	Oxygen absorbed	0.10
Metals: Iron 0.55		Residual Chlorine	Absent
Zinc, copper, lead and manganese:	Absent		

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the "Running Waters" Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

Better reports on samples of effluent were received due mainly to the improved operation of the Plant, but the Works will have to be enlarged to cater for the increase in population which will arise on completion of the proposed residential development.

(c) Rivers and Streams.

No serious pollution took place during the year within the district.

(d) Closet Accommodation.

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but 68 houses with no sewer available are connected to cesspools, or septic tank installations. Three dwellings (isolated farm dwellings and cottages) have only pail closets.

(e) Public Cleansing.

The new 25 cu.yd.compression vehicle has improved the efficiency of the refuse collection and disposal service. A weekly collection schedule was not maintained throughout the year due to the inability to recruit the right type of labour but generally collections averaged a 7 - 9 day schedule.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, occupiers of premises drained to cesspools and septic tanks make their own private arrangements for emptying.

(f) Salvage.

No wastepaper was collected during the year for salvageable purposes due to the poor economic state of the market.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets.	4
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation.	-
Premises with insanitary and defective drains.	4
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools.	3
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation.	2
Premises with defective floors.	2
Dirty Premises.	-
Dangerous structure.	1
Accumulations of offensive matter.	1
Unsound meat and other foods.	7
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. and infectious disease.	-
Nuisance from rats and mice.	29
Other dilapidations.	-
Number of Statutory Notices served.	-
Number of informal notices served.	15
Number of defective premises.	11

(h) Shops and Offices.

New legislation in the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 was introduced during the year, for which a separate annual report is required. No statutory action was necessary.

(i) Caravans, Moveable Dwellings, Camping Sites etc.

A number of Caravans were licensed on sites used in connection with Civil Engineering and Building Works. No other caravans, moveable dwellings were licensed and no sites for moveable dwellings or camping are situated within the district.

(j) Smoke Abatement.

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation.

No treatments were necessary.

8. HOUSING.

During the year no Council dwellings were completed and occupied and no plans were prepared for further development.

Sixty-three private houses were completed and occupied, the majority of these being on the Holland Road, Oliver Street and Ampthill House Estates.

The following plans were approved under Building Byelaws -

156 dwellings.	13 conservatories.
12 maisonettes.	1 petrol tank installation.
28 alterations to domestic premises.	1 temporary storage building.
14 alterations to business premises.	1 agricultural building.
74 garages.	1 female ward - Cheshire Home.
3 car-ports.	

Town and Country Planning

81 Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 61 were approved, 17 refused and 3 withdrawn.

7 Applications under the Advertisement Regulations were received, of which 3 were approved and 4 refused.

9. RODENT CONTROL.

A trained operator has been employed to carry out the destruction of rodents, make surveys etc. and take such steps as to keep infestation down to a minimum. Regular treatments were carried out at the Refuse Tip and Sewage Works, and domestic and business premises were attended to as and when required. Regular surveys of ditches and streams in the district generally were carried out and the necessary treatments given.

10. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

(a) <u>Shops</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Ice Cream Vendors.	14	26
2. Bakers and Confectioners.	9	18
3. Grocers.	4	10
4. Fishmongers.	1	3
5. General Stores.	9	19
6. Butchers.	5	14
7. Dairies and retail milk distributors.	2	4
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers.</u>	3	12
(c) <u>Catering Establishments.</u>		
1. Restaurants and Cafes.	3	9
2. Industrial Canteens.	-	-
3. School Canteens.	2	4
4. Hotels.	1	4
5. Outside catering contractors.	-	-
6. Fish and chip shops.	1	3
7. Others.	-	-

(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments.</u>	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Visits Made.</u>
1. Sausage Makers.	5	14
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers.	5	14
3. Bakehouses.	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers.	-	-
5. Confectionery Manufacturers.	-	-
6. Others.	-	-

- (e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

- (f) Unfit Foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

156 lbs. Tinned Foods.
12 lbs. Cheese,
98 lbs. Semolina.

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the butchers shops is always stained with condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

- (g) Butchers Shops (all registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five butchers shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

- (h) Ice Cream Registrations.

Thirteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which sell a pre-packed article. No samples were taken during the year by this Department.

- (i) Food Hygiene Regulations.

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the regulations were being complied with.

11. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification by Age Groups.

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	1	3	-	4	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	2	-
Measles	32	33	1	66	-

These columns depend for their accuracy on notifications received from general practitioners. Some of the diseases have now become so unimportant that there is nowhere near full notification, so that the figures given can only be taken as an indication of the trend.

Reporting of serious diseases is still complete and in this connection it will be noticed that there have been no cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria, typhoid or other dangerous infectious disease.

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 35								
35 - 65								
Over 65								
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
Male	Female	Male	Female
8	5	-	4

Death Rates per 100,000 of the Population

This District	-	NIL
Bedfordshire	-	2.3
England and Wales	-	4.7

12. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

There is a weekly visit of a mobile unit for chest x-rays on the request of a general practitioner. This unit is on The Sands, every Thursday from 12 noon to 12.30 p.m.

13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis, whooping cough and diphtheria, is the responsibility of the County Council, and has been carried out at child welfare clinics and in the schools.

Immunisation against tuberculosis by B.C.G. is offered to school leavers and is given in the schools.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons Public Health Act 1936, Section 85

Lice

No treatments were given under this section this year.

The bulk of the cases which might call for treatment is in school children with lousy heads, who are always treated informally by the school nurse.

There is an arrangement with the Borough of Bedford to treat general infestations at Barkers Lane, Bedford, at a cost of 30/- per treatment for adults and 17/6d per treatment for children.

Modern treatment of scabies no longer necessitates cleansing under this Section.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961*.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of -		
		Inspect- ions.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec- uted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	11		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	25		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * exclud- ing outworkers premises.	11	34		
Total.	32	70		

* Institutions, Section 124, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction, Section 127.

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars.	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector.	Found by H.M. Insp.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)					
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total.	5	5			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 133 & 134

Nature of Work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

